(ख) महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात में उक्त योजना के अन्तर्गत कितनी धनराशि का भुगतान किया जाना शेष है ;

(ग) इन दावों को निपटाने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ;

(घ) शेष दावों को कब तक निपटा दिये जाने की संभावना है ; और

(ङ) उसका, जिला-वार ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अर्विंद नेताम) : (क) गुजरात में जनवरी, से जून, 1993 के दौरान 4,43,258 किसानों के संबंध में निपटाये गये दावों की धनराशि 10,257.91 लाख रूपये है। इस अवधि के दौरान महाराष्ट्र में किसी भी दावे का निपटान नहीं किया गया।

(ख) महाराष्ट्र के संबंध में लम्बित दावों की धनराशि 28.03 लाख रूपये है। गुजरात में कोई दावा लम्बित नहीं है।

(ग) और (घ) महाराट्र राज्य सरकार को यह स्मरण कराया गया है। कि वह दावे के निपटान में गति लाने के लिये दावे के अपने एक तिहाई अंश को जल्दी निर्मुक्त करे' क्योंकि भारत सरकार ने इन दावों के भुगतान का अनुमोदन पहले ही कर दिया है।

(ङ) महाराष्ट्र के केवल अहमदनगर जिले में ही 28.03 लाख रूपये के दावे का भुगतान किया जाना है।

Problems of cotton growers of Maharashtra and Gujarat

6033. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton growers in Maharashtra and Gujarat are facing tough time in producing cotton due to escalation in the cost of essential components like electricity, fertilizers, etc. having a bearing on the production of cotton in these States; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to provide relief to the farmers to increase the production of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) In Maharashtra State, there has been some increase in the cost of inputs, while there has been no such increase in Gujarat State.

Government of India announce every year Minimum Support Price of Kapas keeping in view the increased cost of inputs. Besides, incentive is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme to cotton growers on essential inputs like seeds, equipments etc. in order to increase the production of cotton.

Increase in the price of cotton

6034. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late a spurt in the cotton prices has been seen in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the factors responsible for this trend; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to arrest and reverse this trend for the benefit of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The wholesale prices of raw cotton as reflected by index number of wholesale prices have increased substantially during 1993-94 Cotton season. The index num-

ber of whole sale prices (1981-82—100) increase from 223.1 in August 1993 to 409.4 in the third week of April, 1994—an increase of 83.5 per cent. The increase in the prices is mainly attributed to the imbalance between demand for and supply of the commodity arising from the reported crop loss in Punjab due to floods and pest attack. The lower opening stocks of cotton with the mills also added to the bullish sentiment. The speculative role played by trade is equally responsible for spurt in prices.

(c) In order to arrest the rising trend in prices and to help the common man, the Government has allowed the duty free import of cotton under Open General Licence: re-introduced selective credit control on cotton and kapas; and imposed restrictions on stock limits of cotton for the textile mills, cotton ginning factories, cotton pressing factories and others dealing in cotton. The Government had also stopped/suspended the export of cotton for a short period.

Memorandum of understanding on farm Research between India and Cuba

6035. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Cuba have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on farm research; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Science and Technology signed a Memorandum of Agreement in the field of Science and Technology on 19th November, 1978 and the Protocol on Cooperation in Science and Technology on 16th September, 1988 with the Republic of Cuba.

Under this Agreement/Protocol, the Department of Agricultural Research and Education in the Ministry of Agriculture has been signing Work Plan with the Government of the Republic of Cuba for cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research. The last Work Plan for the biennium 1992 and 1993 terminated on 31st December, 1993. A fresh Work Plan for the biennium 1994-95 was signed on 11th April, 1994 at New Delhi.

Under the Work Plan with Cuba, there is a provision for exchange of scientists between the two countries for training in various disciplines of Agricultural Research, exchange of scientific information and germplasm of Horticultural and Vegetable Crops.

Ineffective implementation of MMPO

6036. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of intra-ministerial conflicts between Ministries of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, the MMPO (Milk and Milk Products Order) is not being effectively implemented resulting in unhygeinic milk products flooding the market;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) when steps are being taken to remedy the situation at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

New Agricultural Policy

6037. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a new Agricultural Policy during this year; and

(b) if so, what are the features of the said policy and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b)